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OF COUNSEL
WILLIAM G. CONLY

May 2, 2003

Honorable James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation
State of Louisiana
Post Office Box 44275
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Bain Sand, Reservoir C, and Lower Hosston A Zone,
Reservoir A, BEAR CREEK FIELD, Bienville Parish,
Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

ELPASO PRODUCTION COMPANY ("Applicant") hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of Orders pertaining to the following matters relating to the Bain Sand, Reservoir C, and to the Lower Hosston A Zone, Reservoir A, in the Bear Creek Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana:

1. To create one (1) additional drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Bain Sand, Reservoir C, such unit being shown on an attached plat and being designated BAIN RC SUB.
2. To create one (1) additional drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Lower Hosston A Zone, Reservoir A, such unit being shown on an attached plat and being designated L HOSS A RA SUE.
3. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within each of the proposed additional units in accordance with Section 10, Title 30, of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, with each separate tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.
4. To designate Applicant as Operator of the proposed additional units.
5. To designate the El Paso Production Company--Lowery Heirs 6 No. 1 Well and Lowery Heirs 6 No. 2 Well, located as shown on an attached plat, as the unit well and alternate unit well, respectively, for BAIN RC SUB.
6. To designate the El Paso Production Company--Lowery Heirs 6 No. 1 Well, located as shown on an attached plat, as the unit well for L HOSS A RA SUE.

dls/app/bearcreek10.application

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7. To further define the Bain Sand, Reservoir C, as that gas and condensate bearing interval encountered between the measured depths of 7,525 feet and 7,601 feet in the El Paso Production Company--Lowery Heirs 6 No. 1 Well, located in the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 6, Township 16 North, Range 5 West, Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

8. To expand the provisions of Office of Conservation Order No. 78-51, effective August 6, 1998, to include the Bain Sand, Reservoir C, underlying BAIN RC SUB, and the Lower Hosston A Zone, Reservoir A, underlying L HOSS A RA SUE, so as to approve the downhole combination of production from the Bain Sand, Reservoir C, and the Lower Hosston A Zone, Reservoir A, with the intervals approved for downhole combination in Order No. 78-51.

9. To extend, except as in conflict herewith, the provisions of Office of Conservation Order No. 78-J-2, effective October 3, 2000, to the proposed additional unit for the Bain Sand, Reservoir C.

10. To extend, except as in conflict herewith, the provisions of Office of Conservation Order No. 78-AA, effective January 8, 1991, as supplemented and amended by the Order No. 78-AA series of Orders, to the proposed additional unit for the Lower Hosston A Zone, Reservoir A.

11. To discuss such other matters as may be pertinent.

The Bain Sand, Reservoir C, in the Bear Creek Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, is currently defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 78-J-2, effective October 3, 2000.

The Lower Hosston A Zone, Reservoir A, in the Bear Creek Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, is defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 78-AA, effective January 8, 1991.

Pertinent data concerning this application is available for inspection at the offices of Louis Gilbert & Associates, Inc., 3636 North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 204, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-7216. Any person wishing to inspect such data should call Mr. Louis Gilbert at (504) 834-8112 during normal business hours in order to arrange a date and time for such inspection. A copy of any such pertinent data which is not otherwise available from the records of the Louisiana Office of Conservation can be obtained from Mr. Gilbert at the expense of the requesting party.

By letter dated April 21, 2003, Applicant gave notice, in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure, of its intention to apply for a public hearing concerning these proposals and a pre-application conference with respect to Applicant's proposals was tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2003. No request for the pre-application conference was received; therefore, no conference was held.

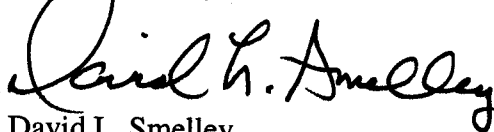
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Attached hereto are two (2) plats outlining Applicant's proposed units, which plats are identical to the plats attached to the pre-application notice. Also attached hereto is a list of the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom a copy of this application is being sent. Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, such list is being forwarded only to the Commissioner of Conservation and to the District Manager of the Shreveport District of the Office of Conservation. A copy of the list will be furnished by the undersigned to any party so requesting. A reasonable effort was made to obtain a complete list of Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing and the enclosed plats at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of Bear Creek Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, a copy of the Legal Notice will be mailed to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, we enclose our check payable to the Commissioner of Conservation for the application fee.

Yours very truly,

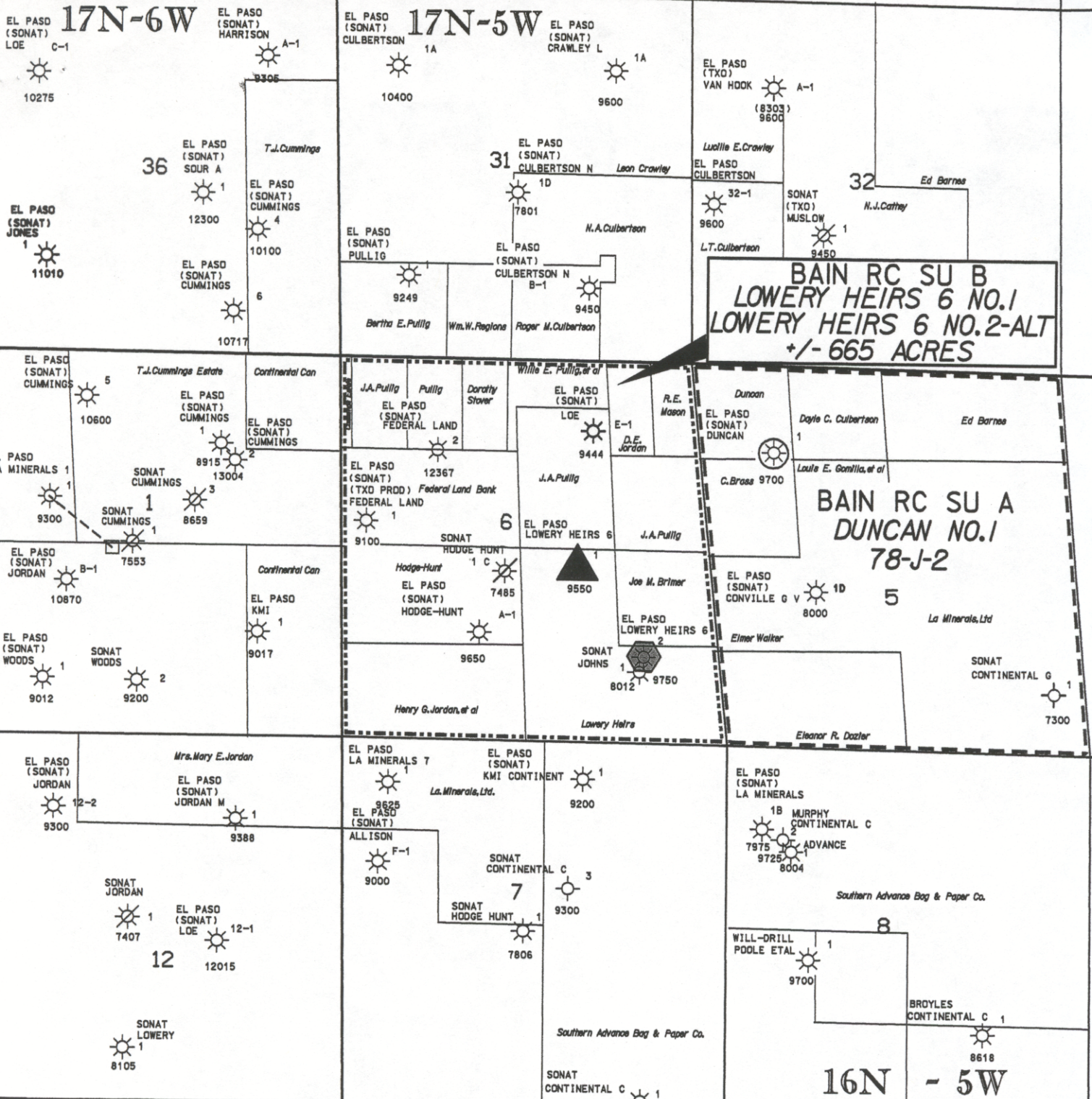


David L. Smelley

-- Attorney for El Paso Production Company

DLS:dp
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Broussard (w/encl.)
Mr. Gary Griffith (w/encl.)
Mr. Jerry Anderson (w/encl.)
Mr. Greg Givens (w/encl.)
Ms. Shirley Galik (w/encl.)
Mr. Louis Gilbert (w/encl.)
Interested Owners, Represented
Parties and Interested Parties (w/plats only)



**BAIN RC SU B
LOWERY HEIRS 6 NO.1
LOWERY HEIRS 6 NO.2-ALT
+/- 665 ACRES**

**BAIN RC SU A
DUNCAN NO.1
78-J-2
5**

**BAIN SU B (APO 78-J-1)
17**

13

LEGEND

--- BAIN RC SU A, AS PER ORDER NO. 78-J-2

----- PROPOSED UNIT

○ UNIT WELL

▲ PROPOSED UNIT WELL

⬢ PROPOSED ALTERNATE UNIT WELL

WELLS 7200' OR SHALLOWER REMOVED FROM BASE

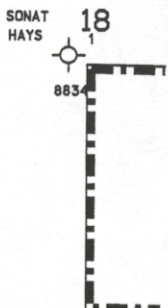


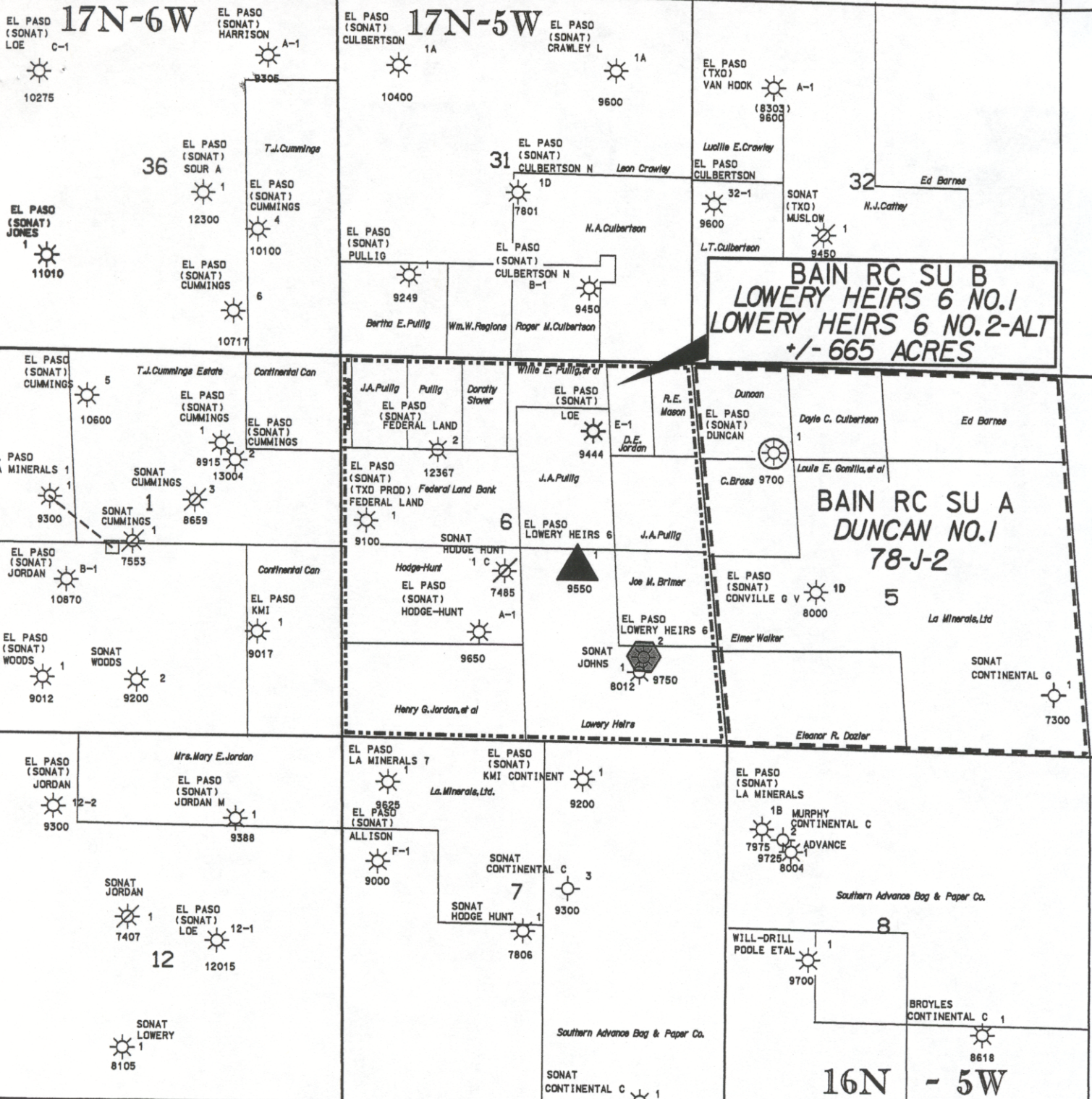
EXHIBIT NO. **el paso** Production Onshore Development Houston, Texas

BEAR CREEK FIELD
BIENVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA

PROPOSED UNIT PLAT
BAIN RC SU B

0 1000' 2000' 3000'

LOUIS GILBERT & ASSOCIATES, INC.



**BAIN RC SU B
LOWERY HEIRS 6 NO.1
LOWERY HEIRS 6 NO.2-ALT
+/- 665 ACRES**

**BAIN RC SU A
DUNCAN NO.1
78-J-2
5**

**BAIN SU B (APO 78-J-1)
17**

16N-6W

13

LEGEND

- BAIN RC SU A, AS PER ORDER NO. 78-J-2
- PROPOSED UNIT
- UNIT WELL
- ▲ PROPOSED UNIT WELL
- ◼ PROPOSED ALTERNATE UNIT WELL

WELLS 7200' OR SHALLOWER REMOVED FROM BASE

16N-5W

EXHIBIT NO. 18

SONAT HAYS

883

el paso Production Onshore Development Houston, Texas

BEAR CREEK FIELD
BIENVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA

PROPOSED UNIT PLAT
BAIN RC SU B

0 1000' 2000' 3000'

LOUIS GILBERT & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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